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NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE AND FEE(S) DUE

7590 12/23/2009

Bell, Boyd & Lloyd, LLC
P.O. Box 1135
Chicago, IL 60690-1135

EXAMINER

HUYNH, BA

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2179

DATE MAILED: 12/23/2009

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/667,287	09/19/2003	Junichi Rekimoto	112857-434	8626

TITLE OF INVENTION: INFORMATION PROCESSING APPARATUS AND METHOD, INFORMATION PROCESSING SYSTEM, AND PROVIDING MEDIUM

APPLN. TYPE	SMALL ENTITY	ISSUE FEE DUE	PUBLICATION FEE DUE	PREV. PAID ISSUE FEE	TOTAL FEE(S) DUE	DATE DUE
nonprovisional	NO	\$1510	\$300	\$0	\$1810	03/23/2010

THE APPLICATION IDENTIFIED ABOVE HAS BEEN EXAMINED AND IS ALLOWED FOR ISSUANCE AS A PATENT. PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS CLOSED. THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS. THIS APPLICATION IS SUBJECT TO WITHDRAWAL FROM ISSUE AT THE INITIATIVE OF THE OFFICE OR UPON PETITION BY THE APPLICANT. SEE 37 CFR 1.313 AND MPEP 1308.

THE ISSUE FEE AND PUBLICATION FEE (IF REQUIRED) MUST BE PAID WITHIN THREE MONTHS FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS NOTICE OR THIS APPLICATION SHALL BE REGARDED AS ABANDONED. THIS STATUTORY PERIOD CANNOT BE EXTENDED. SEE 35 U.S.C. 151. THE ISSUE FEE DUE INDICATED ABOVE DOES NOT REFLECT A CREDIT FOR ANY PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE IN THIS APPLICATION. IF AN ISSUE FEE HAS PREVIOUSLY BEEN PAID IN THIS APPLICATION (AS SHOWN ABOVE), THE RETURN OF PART B OF THIS FORM WILL BE CONSIDERED A REQUEST TO REAPPLY THE PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE TOWARD THE ISSUE FEE NOW DUE.

HOW TO REPLY TO THIS NOTICE:

I. Review the SMALL ENTITY status shown above.

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as YES, verify your current SMALL ENTITY status:

A. If the status is the same, pay the TOTAL FEE(S) DUE shown above.

B. If the status above is to be removed, check box 5b on Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal and pay the PUBLICATION FEE (if required) and twice the amount of the ISSUE FEE shown above, or

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as NO:

A. Pay TOTAL FEE(S) DUE shown above, or

B. If applicant claimed SMALL ENTITY status before, or is now claiming SMALL ENTITY status, check box 5a on Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal and pay the PUBLICATION FEE (if required) and 1/2 the ISSUE FEE shown above.

II. PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL, or its equivalent, must be completed and returned to the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) with your ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). If you are charging the fee(s) to your deposit account, section "4b" of Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal should be completed and an extra copy of the form should be submitted. If an equivalent of Part B is filed, a request to reapply a previously paid issue fee must be clearly made, and delays in processing may occur due to the difficulty in recognizing the paper as an equivalent of Part B.

III. All communications regarding this application must give the application number. Please direct all communications prior to issuance to Mail Stop ISSUE FEE unless advised to the contrary.

IMPORTANT REMINDER: Utility patents issuing on applications filed on or after Dec. 12, 1980 may require payment of maintenance fees. It is patentee's responsibility to ensure timely payment of maintenance fees when due.

PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL

Complete and send this form, together with applicable fee(s), to: **Mail Stop ISSUE FEE**
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INSTRUCTIONS: This form should be used for transmitting the ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). Blocks 1 through 5 should be completed where appropriate. All further correspondence including the Patent, advance orders and notification of maintenance fees will be mailed to the current correspondence address as indicated unless corrected below or directed otherwise in Block 1, by (a) specifying a new correspondence address; and/or (b) indicating a separate "FEE ADDRESS" for maintenance fee notifications.

CURRENT CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS (Note: Use Block 1 for any change of address)

7590 12/23/2009

Bell, Boyd & Lloyd, LLC
P.O. Box 1135
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Certificate of Mailing or Transmission

I hereby certify that this Fee(s) Transmittal is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage for first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Mail Stop ISSUE FEE address above, or by facsimile transmitted to the USPTO (571) 273-2885, on the date indicated below.

(Depositor's name)

(Signature)

(Date)

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/667,287	09/19/2003	Junichi Rekimoto	112857-434	8626

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nonprovisional	NO	\$1510	\$300	\$0	\$1810	03/23/2010

EXAMINER	ART UNIT	CLASS-SUBCLASS
HUYNH, BA	2179	715-848000

1. Change of correspondence address or indication of "Fee Address" (37 CFR 1.363).

Change of correspondence address (or Change of Correspondence Address form PTO/SB/122) attached.

"Fee Address" indication (or "Fee Address" Indication form PTO/SB/47; Rev 03-02 or more recent) attached. **Use of a Customer Number is required.**

2. For printing on the patent front page, list

- (1) the names of up to 3 registered patent attorneys or agents OR, alternatively,
- (2) the name of a single firm (having as a member a registered attorney or agent) and the names of up to 2 registered patent attorneys or agents. If no name is listed, no name will be printed.

1 _____
2 _____
3 _____

3. ASSIGNEE NAME AND RESIDENCE DATA TO BE PRINTED ON THE PATENT (print or type)

PLEASE NOTE: Unless an assignee is identified below, no assignee data will appear on the patent. If an assignee is identified below, the document has been filed for recordation as set forth in 37 CFR 3.11. Completion of this form is NOT a substitute for filing an assignment.

(A) NAME OF ASSIGNEE

(B) RESIDENCE: (CITY AND STATE OR COUNTRY)

Please check the appropriate assignee category or categories (will not be printed on the patent): Individual Corporation or other private group entity Government

4a. The following fee(s) are submitted:

4b. Payment of Fee(s): (Please first reapply any previously paid issue fee shown above)

- Issue Fee
- A check is enclosed.
- Publication Fee (No small entity discount permitted)
- Payment by credit card. Form PTO-2038 is attached.
- Advance Order - # of Copies _____
- The Director is hereby authorized to charge the required fee(s), any deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number _____ (enclose an extra copy of this form).

5. Change in Entity Status (from status indicated above)

a. Applicant claims SMALL ENTITY status. See 37 CFR 1.27.

b. Applicant is no longer claiming SMALL ENTITY status. See 37 CFR 1.27(g)(2).

NOTE: The Issue Fee and Publication Fee (if required) will not be accepted from anyone other than the applicant; a registered attorney or agent; or the assignee or other party in interest as shown by the records of the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

Authorized Signature _____

Date _____

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This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.311. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS; SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450.

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10/667,287	09/19/2003	Junichi Rekimoto	112857-434	8626
7590	12/23/2009		EXAMINER	
Bell, Boyd & Lloyd, LLC P.O. Box 1135 Chicago, IL 60690-1135			HUYNH, BA	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2179	
				DATE MAILED: 12/23/2009

Determination of Patent Term Adjustment under 35 U.S.C. 154 (b) (application filed on or after May 29, 2000)

The Patent Term Adjustment to date is 395 day(s). If the issue fee is paid on the date that is three months after the mailing date of this notice and the patent issues on the Tuesday before the date that is 28 weeks (six and a half months) after the mailing date of this notice, the Patent Term Adjustment will be 395 day(s).

If a Continued Prosecution Application (CPA) was filed in the above-identified application, the filing date that determines Patent Term Adjustment is the filing date of the most recent CPA.

Applicant will be able to obtain more detailed information by accessing the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) WEB site (<http://pair.uspto.gov>).

Any questions regarding the Patent Term Extension or Adjustment determination should be directed to the Office of Patent Legal Administration at (571)-272-7702. Questions relating to issue and publication fee payments should be directed to the Customer Service Center of the Office of Patent Publication at 1-(888)-786-0101 or (571)-272-4200.

Notice of Allowability	Application No. 10/667,287	Applicant(s) REKIMOTO, JUNICHI
	Examiner Ba Huynh	Art Unit 2179

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTO-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. This communication is responsive to the examiner's amendment on 12/18/09.

2. The allowed claim(s) is/are 23-30,32-39,41,43 and 45-50.

3. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some* c) None of the:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. 09/413,432.

3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.

5. CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.

(a) including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
1) hereto or 2) to Paper No./Mail Date _____.

(b) including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of
Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).

6. DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

5. Notice of Informal Patent Application

2. Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

6. Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.

3. Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.

7. Examiner's Amendment/Comment

4. Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material

8. Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance

9. Other _____.

/Ba Huynh/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2179

DETAILED ACTION

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Robert T. Clarke on 12/18/09.

The application has been amended as follows:

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-22 (canceled).

Claim 23 (currently amended): A method of attaching data items to a physical environment, the method comprising:

capturing surrounding contexts in a particular physical environment, the surrounding contexts including at least one of position context and object context, and capturing data items including at least one of visual data and audio data, wherein the surrounding contexts and the data items are sensed by a plurality of sensing means, [[and]]wherein the position context represents a position in the particular physical environment and is based on a plurality of electric field intensities sensed by the sensing means, and wherein in the position context is based on a

distance calculated from a similarity determination among pairs of an electronic field intensity of an electric wave and a unique ID of each apparatus transmitting the electric wave;

attaching data items to the surrounding contexts;

sending the attached data items and the captured surrounding contexts to an external apparatus for storing;

transmitting the captured position context to the external apparatus for retrieving a data item stored in the external apparatus; and

receiving the data item stored in the external apparatus based on the transmitted position context.

Claim 24 (currently amended): The [[A]]method of [[according to]]Claim 23, further comprising selecting a date and a time when attaching the data items to the surrounding contexts.

Claim 25 (currently amended): The [[A]]method of [[according to]]Claim 24, wherein the selected date and time includes[[is]] a future or past date and time.

Claim 26 (currently amended): The [[A]]method of [[according to]]Claim 23, wherein the object context is for identifying at least one object in the particular physical environment.

Claim 27 (currently amended): The [[A]]method of [[according to]]Claim 23, wherein the capturing is continuously performed so that the data items are always captured.

Claim 28 (currently amended): The [[A]]method of [[according to]]Claim 23, wherein the position context identifies a room in the particular physical environment.

Claim 29 (currently amended): The [[A]]method of [[according to]]Claim 23, wherein the audio data includes[[is]]voice data.

Claim 30 (currently amended): ~~The [[A]]~~method of [[according to]]Claim 23, wherein the visual data ~~includes~~[[is]]image data.

Claim 31 (canceled).

Claim 32 (currently amended): An apparatus for attaching data items to a physical environment, ~~the apparatus~~comprising:

capturing means for capturing surrounding context in a particular physical environment, the surrounding contexts including at least one of position context and object context, and capturing data items including at least one of visual data and audio data, wherein the surrounding contexts and the data items are sensed by a plurality of sensing means, [[and]]wherein the position context represents a position in the particular physical environment and is based on a plurality of electric field intensities sensed by the sensing means, ~~and wherein the position context is based on a distance calculated from a similarity determination among pairs of an electronic field intensity of an electric wave and a unique ID of each apparatus transmitting the electric wave;~~

attaching means for attaching data items to the surrounding contexts;

sending means for sending the attached data items and the captured surrounding contexts to an external apparatus for storing;

transmitting means for transmitting the captured position context to the external apparatus for retrieving a data item stored in the external apparatus; and

receiving means for receiving the data item stored in the external apparatus based on the transmitted position context.

Claim 33 (currently amended): ~~The [[An]]~~apparatus of [[according to]]Claim 32, further comprising selecting means for selecting a date and a time when attaching the data items to the surrounding contexts.

Claim 34 (currently amended): The [[An]]apparatus of [[according to]]Claim 33, wherein the selected date and time includes [[is]]a future or past date and time.

Claim 35 (currently amended): The [[An]]apparatus of [[according to]]Claim 32, wherein the object context is for identifying at least one object in the particular physical environment.

Claim 36 (currently amended): The [[An]]apparatus of [[according to]]Claim 32, wherein the capturing is continuously performed so that the data items are always captured.

Claim 37 (currently amended): The [[An]]apparatus of [[according to]]Claim 32, wherein the position context identifies a room in the particular physical environment.

Claim 38 (currently amended): The [[An]]apparatus of [[according to]]Claim 32, wherein the audio data includes [[is]]voice data.

Claim 39 (currently amended): The [[An]]apparatus of [[according to]]Claim 32, wherein the visual data includes [[is]]image data.

Claim 40 (canceled).

Claim 41 (currently amended): A method for attaching data items to a physical environment, the method comprising:

capturing a plurality of surrounding contexts in a particular physical environment, the surrounding contexts including location data and time data, wherein the surrounding contexts are sensed by a plurality of sensing means, [[and]]wherein the location data represents a position in the particular physical environment and is based on a plurality of electric field intensities sensed by the sensing means, and wherein the location data is based on a distance calculated from a similarity determination among pairs of an electronic field intensity of an electric wave and a unique ID of each apparatus transmitting the electric wave;

inputting keyword and data including at least one of visual data, audio data, and text data regarding the surrounding contexts, wherein the keyword and the data including at least one of the visual data, the audio data, and the text data are attached to the surrounding contexts;

sending the location data, the time data, the keyword, and the data including at least one of the visual data, the audio data, and the text data to a database for storing;

transmitting at least one of the location data, the time data, and the keyword to the database for retrieving the data including at least one of the visual data, the audio data, and the text data stored in the database;

receiving the data including at least one of the visual data, the audio data, and the text data stored in the database in a result of the retrieving; and

displaying the received data including at least one of the visual data, the audio data, and the text data.

Claim 42 (canceled).

Claim 43 (currently amended): An apparatus for attaching data items to a physical environment, the apparatus comprising:

capturing means for capturing a plurality of surrounding contexts in a particular physical environment, the surrounding contexts including location data and time data, wherein the surrounding contexts are sensed by a plurality of sensing means, [[and]]wherein the location data represents a position in the particular physical environment and is based on a plurality of electric field intensities sensed by the sensing means, and wherein the location data is based on a distance calculated from a similarity determination among pairs of an electric field intensity of an electric wave and a unique ID of each apparatus transmitting the electric wave;

inputting means for inputting keyword and data including at least one of visual data, audio data, and text data regarding the surrounding contexts, wherein the keyword and the data including at least one of the visual data, the audio data, and the text data are attached to the surrounding contexts;

sending means for sending the location data, the time data, the keyword, and the data including at least one of the visual data, the audio data, and the text data to a database for storing;

transmitting means for transmitting at least one of the location data, the time data, and the keyword to the database for retrieving a data including at least one of visual data, audio data, and text data stored in the database;

receiving means for receiving the data including at least one of the visual data, the audio data, and the text data stored in the database in a result of the retrieving; and

displaying means for displaying the received data including at least one of the visual data, the audio data, and the text data.

Claim 44 (canceled).

Claim 45 (currently amended): A method for storing data items attached to surrounding contexts in a physical environment, the method comprising:

receiving location data, time data, keyword, and data including at least one of visual data, audio data and text data from an other apparatus, wherein the location data represents a position in the physical environment, wherein the location data is based on a distance calculated from a similarity determination among pairs of an electronic field intensity of an electric wave and a unique ID of each apparatus transmitting the electric wave;

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storing the location data, the time data, the keyword, and the data including at least one of the visual data, the audio data, and the text data in a database in a corresponding manner, wherein the location data, the time data, and the keyword are attached as a retrieval key for retrieving the data including at least one of the visual data, the audio data, and the text data;

retrieving the database in response to a request from the other apparatus; and

sending the data, to the other apparatus, including at least one of the visual data, the audio data, and the text data in a result of the retrieving.

Claim 46 (currently amended): An apparatus for storing data items attached to surrounding contexts in a physical environment, the apparatus comprising:

receiving means for receiving location data, time data, keyword, and data including at least one of visual data, audio data and text data from an other apparatus, wherein the location

data represents a position in the physical environment, wherein the location data is based on a distance calculated from a similarity determination among pairs of an electronic field intensity of an electric wave and a unique ID of each apparatus transmitting the electric wave;

storing means for storing the location data, the time data, the keyword, and the data including at least one of the visual data, the audio data, and the text data in a database in a corresponding manner, wherein the location data, the time data, and the keyword are attached as a retrieval key for retrieving the data including at least one of the visual data, the audio data and the text data;

retrieving means for retrieving the database in response to a request from the other apparatus; and

sending means for sending the data, to the other apparatus, including at least one of the visual data, the audio data, and the text data in a result of the retrieving.

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Claim 47 (currently amended): The [[A]]method of [[according to]]Claim 23, further comprising sensing an IR signal transmitted from an IR beacon located in the particular physical environment, wherein the position context is based on the IR signal.

Claim 48 (currently amended): The [[An]]apparatus of [[according to]]Claim 32, further comprising:

IR sensing means for sensing an IR signal transmitted from an IR beacon located in the particular physical environment, wherein the position context is based on the IR signal.

Claim 49 (currently amended): The [[A]]method of [[according to]]Claim 41, further comprising sensing an IR signal transmitted from an IR beacon located in the particular physical environment, wherein the location data is based on the IR signal.

Claim 50 (currently amended): The [[An]]apparatus of [[according to]]Claim 43, further comprising:

IR sensing means for sensing an IR signal transmitted from an IR beacon located in the particular physical environment, wherein the location data is based on the IR signal.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 23-30, 32-39, 41, 43, 45-50 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: Independent claims 23, 32, 41, 43, 45 and 46, each when considered as a whole, are allowable over the prior art of record. Specifically prior art of record fail to clearly teach or suggest that the position context is based on a distance calculated from a similarity determination among pairs of an electric field intensity of an electric wave and a unique ID of each apparatus transmitting the electric wave.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ba Huynh whose telephone number is (571) 272-4138. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon - Fri.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Weilun Lo can be reached on 571-272-4847. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Ba Huynh/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2179